

REMARKS

Claims 29 through 37 are now pending in the application. Claim 29 has been amended. Basis for the amendment can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Applicant notes that Claim 29 has been amended to correct various ambiguities. In this regard, Applicant notes that Claim 29 had mentioned "the splines", "the mating splines" and "the preforming portion" and that the amendment deletes reference to the "performing portion" and to provide antecedent basis for the "spline" and "mating spline" elements. Applicant further notes that the discussion of the flange being embedded into the perform portion only elaborates on and clarifies the previously presented limitation that required the preform portion to be deformed about the opposite axial sides of the flange. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amendment to Claim 29 does not raise new issues, but rather simplifies issues for appeal. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to Claim 29 should be entered.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 29-30 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,535,762 to Taylor in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,100,333 to Friend. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of obviousness. More specifically, the combination of references does not teach or suggest each element of Claim 29. In this regard, Applicant notes that the Friend reference appears to disclose an arrangement wherein material from a spur gear (11) flows radially inwardly into a groove (12) that is formed in pinion gear (10). Neither the spur gear (11) nor the pinion gear (10) include a flange. Moreover, the Examiner has noted that Taylor does not teach or suggest a flange.

Additionally, neither Taylor nor Friend teach or suggest the use of a mandrel having a series of splines formed thereon. The mandrel (24 or 52) of the Taylor reference has a round cross-section and the Friend reference does not disclose a mandrel. While Taylor notes that the exterior of the tube (23) could be "knurled, flattened or groved prior to forging in order to provide a higher strength bond between the gear and the shaft", Taylor is silent as to any alternative to the circular and smooth interior of the tube (23) that is shown in the drawings.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of references does not teach or suggest each element of Claim 29 and as such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant notes that Claims 30 and 34-37 depend from Claim 29 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claim 29, above.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 31 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,535,762 to Taylor in view of U.S. Patent No.

3,100,333 to Friend and U.S. Patent No. 3,962,772 to Haller. The Examiner has also rejected Claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,535,762 to Taylor in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,100,333 to Friend and U.S. Patent No. 3,842,646 to Kuhn and/or JP 07-051789 to AISIN. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

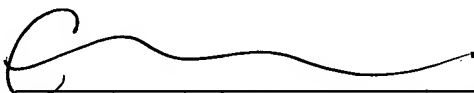
Applicant notes that Claims 31-33 depend from Claim 29 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claim 29, above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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